

3/20/12

TO: COUNCIL CHAIR ERNEST Y. MARTIN

RE: Bill 10 Relating to the use of bags provided to customers.

Dear Council Chair Martin,

Instead of implementing a ban on plastic bags, please support assessing a fee on all single use bags, whether paper or plastic. This will surely encourage consumers to reduce the use of both paper and plastic single use bags and bring their own reusable bags when shopping. At the same time, it allows the City to generate much needed funds to support worthwhile activities and projects.

Without a fee on paper, a plastic bag ban bill will result in consumers using more paper bags. More bulk in landfills. In addition, paper bags can cost much more than plastic bags, eventually resulting in higher prices for the consumer. There is little upside for the environment. Both paper and plastic bags can be used on Oahu to generate H-power as well. It is also important to note that many plastic bags are used more than once. To pack a home lunch or take home leftovers from family potlucks or pick up pet poop or consolidate recyclable containers or gather old newspapers.

If we want to encourage reusable bag use, a fee is the way to go. A plastic bag ban does not accomplish this goal.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Alan Y. Nakamura

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